



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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PBAC decision disappointing

The Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) has described the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) decision to reject Gardasil as a very sad decision for Australian women.

ADGP Chair Dr Tony Hobbs said the decision makes no health or social sense.

"250 Australian women die of cervical cancer each year and 15,000 will develop high-grade cervical abnormalities. Of these 70% could have been prevented by the Gardasil vaccination. It is estimated up to 79% of women will be infected with a Human Papilloma Virus at some point in their lives.

"How do you put a cost on saving anybody's life when prevention is at hand?

"It's a huge morbidity and mortality cost.

"This is the second PBAC immunisation rejection. First there was the vaccine for Rotavirus, now it is cervical cancer. It's really important the PBAC understand the value of vaccination in terms of population health outcomes?" Dr Hobbs said.

The PBAC committee is 'required by the Act (National Health Act 1953) to consider the effectiveness and cost of a proposed benefit compared to alternative therapies'. (www.health.gov.au)

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said she'd like to know what other therapies are currently available and how preventing 250 women dying and not having to treat 1000's more is not cost effective.

"ADGP said CSL, the PBAC and the government need to work together to find an urgent solution to address this problem so Australian women have access to an affordable and necessary vaccine.

"It's not only the long-term economic benefits Gardasil will have on the health system but also social costs and emotional strain on Australian women will be dramatically reduced.

"What does this say to our researchers who are dedicated to saving lives and improving the nation's health? Nobel Laureates Florey and Doherty why not embrace our Australian of the year Ian Frazer?" Ms Carnell said.

For more information please call Kate Carnell, ADGP Chief Executive Officer, on 0415 662 266.

WHAT IS ADGP?

- ADGP is the peak body representing 119 Divisions of General Practice and eight State-based organisations (SBOs) around Australia. The Divisions Network supports general practice and their practice teams and drives the implementation of innovative health strategies.
- ADGP, through the Divisions Network, works to integrate general practice with other sectors of the health system, both government and non-government, to deliver high quality care to the Australian community.
- ADGP is committed to promoting the health of all Australians by supporting the role of Divisions in the nation's primary health care system.



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